

MAPES & SPROWL

11-13

THIS LETTER BEING
FORWARDED AT THYSSEN'S
REQUEST.

The Chairman of the Commission
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

ANY QUESTIONS -
CALL CHRIS WIDUCH
MAPES & SPROWL STEEL
847-758-4611

11/9/01

Dear Sir:

This letter is in regards to the steel-investigation No. TA-201-73. Mapes & Sprowl Steel is a steel service center that has been in business in Chicago since 1927. We specialize in the processing and distribution of two flat rolled steel products: vitreous enameling steels and electrical steels. In these two products we are one of the leading service centers in the country, processing over 35,000 tons. We service a wide variety of customers, including the appliance industry, gas grill industry, cookware, and plumbingware for enameling steel; to the motor, generator, and transformer industry in our electrical steel product. For over 7 years we have purchased a portion of our supply of both of these specific products from Thyssen Steel. The vitreous enameling steel product, ASTM A424 Type 1, is produced in all of North America by only two U.S. mills (U.S. Steel and AK Steel) and one Canadian mill, Dofasco. All three of those mills have, over the years, restricted availability of the product due to marketing reasons, production reasons, or quality reasons. We would not be in business today if we were not able to go offshore, including to Thyssen, in order to supplement our buy from our North American suppliers.

The same applies to our electrical steel. The limited availability from our domestic sources is even more restricted. Grain oriented electrical steel in this country is only made by AK Steel and Allegheny Steel. Both mills limit their availability for a number of reasons. In non-oriented fully processed electrical steel only AK Steel and WCI Steel produce the products domestically that we use. Clearly we must look beyond two sources of steel to insure continuous availability. If you are familiar with steel making processes, you are aware that many things can go wrong, and lead times for the product can vary from 6 weeks to 16 weeks. For us to rely on just two sources, one (WCI) of which has historically been unreliable, would be suicide.

Thyssen's products have always been of high quality, some times even superior quality to our domestic sourcing. Their service has been excellent and delivery has been as reliable as our domestic sources.

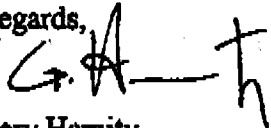
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I do not have all the available data to support my position, but based on 25 years of experience in the steel industry, 7 years of that with a domestic steel mill, IN THESE SPECIFIC PRODUCTS, I find it very difficult to accept that U.S. producers have been injured by foreign steel imports. I believe that there are many factors contributing to the current problems facing domestic steel mills, but to pin most of the blame on steel imports is a gross simplification. I am certain that there are foreign mills that have taken advantage of the open market conditions in the U.S., but in my opinion Thyssen is not one of them.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hamity', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Hamity
President, Mapes & Sprowl Steel